

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00025 040941Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
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P R 040843Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1313
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PAK'S 1977 NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

SUMMARY. IN ROUTINE NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE, PRESIDENT PAK NOTES
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROK IN 1976 AND CALLS FOR FURTHER EFFORTS IN
1977. NATIONALISTIC TONE IS NOTICEABLE IN REFERENCES TO
"SELF-RELIANCE." END SUMMARY.

1. ON JANUARY 1, MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
RELEASED TEXT OF PRESIDENT PAK'S 1977 NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE
IN ORIGINAL AND ENGLISH TRANSLATION. CALLING ON PEOPLE TO
"WORK IN UNITY," MESSAGE STRESSES THEME THAT "WE OURSELVES...
ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN SECURITY AND PROSPERITY."

2. MORE SPECIFIC PARTS OF MESSAGE, WHICH IS ADDRESSED TO ALL
KOREANS, THOSE RESIDENT ABROAD AS WELL AS OVERSEAS WORKERS,
TOUCH MOST AREAS OF ROKG PUBLIC CONCERN. REFERENCE IS MADE
TO ATROCITIES OF NORTH KOREANS IN 1976, PROGRESS TOWARD
"NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION," GOOD HARVEST, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF
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SAEMAUL UNDONG AND THIRD 5-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN. WARNING OF
FURTHER DIFFICULTIES TO BE FACED IN "DEVELOPING NATIONAL
EXISTENCE AND INDEPENDENCE," PAK CALLS FOR GOOD START ON
FOURTH 5-YEAR PLAN IN ITS FIRST YEAR, DEVELOPMENT OF
"SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE CAPABILITY," CONTINUANCE OF SOUTH-
NORTH DIALOGUE AND HOME-VISIT PROGRAM FOR CHOCH'ONGNYON-

AFFILIATED KOREANS IN JAPAN, AND OPENING DOORS TO NATIONS WITH OTHER IDEOLOGIES. CALLING FOR STRENGTHENED "SOCIAL DISCIPLINE" AND UNITY, PAK CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT THAT GOAL OF CREATING A "HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED NATION" IS "WITHIN OUR REACH."

3. MESSAGE, WHICH IS VERY SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS YEARS' EFFORTS, CONTAINS SEVERAL OF PAK'S FAVORITE TERMS, SUCH AS "A NEW CHAPTER OF HISTORY," "CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FATHERLAND," AND "YUSIN IDEALS" (OR "OR "SPIRIT"). TONE IS THAT OF A STERN COACH CALLING IN NATIONALISTIC TERMS FOR MORE TEAM EFFORT.

4. MESSAGE CONTAINS NO REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS OR "PROBLEMS" WITH US WHICH WERE BRIEFLY EXPOSED IN KOREAN PRESS ON DECEMBER 28 AND 29. MESSAGE WAS REPORTED AND EXCERPTED AS LEAD ITEM IN NEW YEAR'S DAY ISSUES OF ALL VERNACULAR PAPERS, BUT PRESS HOLIDAY THROUGH MORNING OF JANUARY 4 HAS MADE EDITORIAL COMMENT IMPOSSIBLE. EMBASSY WILL POUCH FULL TEXT.

5. PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S PRESS CONFERENCE, TRADITIONALLY HELD IN MID-JANUARY, WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR PAK TO MAKE MORE EXTENSIVE COMMENTS THROUGH USUAL CONTROLLED QUESTIONS. SNEIDER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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